

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7, 10, and 14-20 are pending, Claims 2-7, 10, and 14-18 are amended, Claims 1, 8, 9, and 11-13 are canceled, and Claims 19 and 20 are added by the present amendment.

Claim 16 is amended to be in proper multiple dependent form, and Claims 19 and 20 are added to recite features canceled from Claim 16. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Naoi (U.S. 6,168,442). Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection.

Claim 2 is directed to an anisotropically conductive connector comprising an elastic anisotropically conductive film that includes, in part, conductive parts for connection, conductive parts for high-frequency shielding, and an insulating part that insulates the conductive parts for connection.

By placing conductive parts for high frequency shielding extending in the same direction as the conductive parts for connection in the elastic anisotropically conductive film, the external noises to high frequency signals and noises from adjoining conductive parts for connection can be controlled in each of the conductive parts for connection by connecting the conductive parts for high frequency shielding to a ground.¹ Thus, the claimed invention allows an electrical inspection of a circuit device with clock frequencies as high as 1 GHz.²

Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion in the Office Action that Naoi discloses all of the elements of Claim 2.³ As previously discussed, amended Claim 2 requires an anisotropically conductive connector having cylindrical conductive parts for high-frequency

¹ Specification at page 12, lines 15-24.

² Specification at page 12, line 24, to page 13, line 3.

³ Official Action, received on July 10, 2006, at page 2.

shielding arranged so as to surround each of the conductive parts for connection and extending in the thickness-wise direction. The outstanding Office Action cites Figure 1, conductive portion (12) of Naoi as disclosing conductive parts for high-frequency shielding arranged so as to surround each of the conductive parts for connection. However, the conductive portion (12) of the connector in Naoi is used merely for connection, not high-frequency shielding.⁴

Naoi indicates that high-frequency shielding is achieved by connecting a metal plate (16) to ground.⁵ Although the metal plate surrounds the conductive portions (12) for connection, Figures 1-11 of Naoi neither teach or suggest that the metal plate is cylindrical. Additionally, Naoi neither teaches or suggests that the metal plate extends in the thickness-wise direction.⁶ Therefore, Naoi neither teaches or suggests an anisotropically conductive connector having cylindrical conductive parts for high-frequency shielding arranged to surround each of the conductive parts for connection and extending in the thickness-wise direction as recited in Claim 2.

Claims 3-6 are amended to recite features similar to those of Claim 2. Therefore, Claims 3-6 are respectfully traversed under analogous grounds as Claim 2.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 2-6 and claims depending therefrom are allowable.

⁴ See Naoi column 5, lines 36-40.

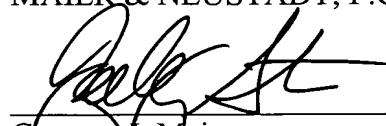
⁵ See Naoi column 3, lines 8-12.

⁶ For a discussion on the construction of the metal plate (16), see Naoi column 7, lines 34-67 to column 8, lines 1-28.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Zachary S. Stern
Registration No. 54,719

I:\ATTY\SP\27\S\279560US\279560US.DOC